

From: Wally Bishop
To: Richard Denton
Subject: RE: CALFED Scoping Session - Oakland 4/9
Date: 1996-04-10 10:26
Priority:

bj's comments are disappointing, we have retired industries in this country by removing subsidies, and buying outolder plants through pollution credits,

From: Richard Denton on Wed, Apr 10, 1996 8:16 AM
Subject: CALFED Scoping Session - Oakland 4/9
To: Wally Bishop; Greg Gartrell
Cc: Tom Linville; Richard Denton; KT Shum; David Briggs; Bill Hasencamp; Al Donner

Lena
The series of eight scoping sessions kicked off in Oakland last night. KT Shum and I represented the District. Karl Stinson & Jim Dixon spoke on behalf of Alameda County WD (Karl had a script prepared and spoke for probably 10 minutes). ~~Amy~~ Tam (EBMUD) and Amy Fowler (Santa Clara) also spoke on behalf of the urban position. Pete Rhoads (MWD) was there but did not speak. Lester Snow and Rick Brietenbach started the evening with an overview of the Bay-Delta program and the differences between programmatic and project level EIR/EISS. Michael Jackson (Rural Counties) asked about the No-Action alternative which is still being developed. It will probably draw heavily on the work done for the CVPIA but will be based on the 1994 Accord and the corresponding biological opinions. Steve Jaeger (CALFED) ran through the components of the alternatives but did not get too far into the 10 alternatives themselves. CALFED now characterizes land retirement as "permanent land fallowing."

There was a strong representation by environmental groups. They lead the questions and statements initially (all given from the audience seating rather than a podium). Arthur Feinstein (Audoban Society) wants more flows as more flow is better (rather than relying in part on non-flow measures). Lester may have misspoke when he replied that CALFED will be "delivering" flows over and above the WQCP requirements ... Lester was sensitive of the ongoing 800 TAF discussions but implied that there will be increased Delta outflows etc. I will ask him about this in private at tonight's scoping session at Walnut Grove. I responded to Arthur by pointing out that not all increases in flow are good, e.g. flows toward the pumps, and there is a real need for non-flow ecosystem restoration, e.g. by removing rip-rap and widening channels. I also stated that the urban's main concern is that CALFED needs to address public health and safety issues ... this then triggered the ACWA, SCVWD and EBMUD presentations ... Lester may have regretted asking urban agencies to be more of a presence.

BJ Miller (representing the Ag side of SLDMWA) then engaged. He pointed out that it was outrageous to target "marginally-productive" lands for retirement just as it would be to target marginally-productive industries or low-income housing areas for retirement. "Fish species are not being allowed to go extinct, why make farmers extinct?" BJ and other speakers noted the need for an accurate description up front of water user needs, in particular existing and future water demands. BJ stated that we do not need more storage to fix the Delta, and that we have plenty of storage, citing Kern Water Bank and Los Vaqueros.

Polly Smith (League of Women Voters, Save SF Bay) agreed that urban wq was a

huge issue. She wants pollution reduced at source and opposes the San Luis Drain. An economist, Peter Gasgoine, suggested that dual piping is needed in new developments to allow drinking water and reclaimed water for irrigation to be served separately. Michael Jackson eloquently ran through area of origin issues, 1.5 MAF needed in the mountain counties in the future, Trinity River concerns. loss of the Sprong run salmon, why no releases from Friant ("Who gave them a hall pass?"), flows are needed for Suisun Marsh, EBMUD and SFPUC should not have peripheral pipes. Arthur Feinstein (again) thinks peripheral canals should be called peripheral canals in CALFED documents and wants to preserve the Farallon pulse (something the projects cannot control as it

probably requires as much as 100,000 cfs outflow to get the freshwater plume out to the Farallons!). A Sierra Club spokesman rebutted BJ's comments on land retirement by pointing out the need to remove subsidies for water. Cynthia Koehler was also present but did not react too strongly to BJ (they have an ongoing feud over Category III).

Bill Hasencamp and I will be at Walnut Grove tonight (along with Byron Buck). Bill will cover the two sessions in LA on April 17 and I will be in Bakersfield (Ag country) for the final night (April 18).